

# The Messenger

OCTOBER 2021 Volume 29 Issue 9

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

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- Sunday Services are via live-stream only through October 3rd. An in-person component will return on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Coffee Hours will be on Zoom.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2021

[Our theme for October is "Cultivating Relationship." Ask yourself: "Am I someone who cultivates relationships or shies away from them?" "Do I have many deep relationships with people who accept, support and nurture me?" Or do "I have a few people that are my trusted confidantes and many others that I engage with but on a more superficial way?" You might wish to go deeper with a question such as "How do I use relationships?": To exchange information and create partnerships? To solve problems? To be totally honest and accountable with someone? To have "a crew" to do things and hang out with?]

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>:** "Bullies & Boundaries" (Rev. Michael)

Sometimes the world seems like a giant playground with all of its rivals and bullies, innocents and idealists, peacekeepers and powerbrokers. Sometimes it feels enormous, random and indecipherable. How does how we view "the world" shape how we relate to everything else? Join us on YouTube for the service.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** "Coming In, Coming Home" (Rev. Michael)

Today we return to the dual platform (in-person & livestreamed through YouTube) delivery of worship. As we come home to our Sanctuary for worship once again, we will explore the sense of comfort or discomfort we feel in the places we grew up and with people we knew/know best.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>:** "Relatable" (Rev. Michael)

Interpersonal relations are hard enough between people who agree on most issues, even when they are face-to-face, with all the time in the world to sort out any disagreements that arise between them and find common ground. But really, how often are people who have to (or want to) get along so much alike, and find themselves in the ideal setting to relate, understand and accept each other as is?

**October 24<sup>th</sup>:** (TBA)

**October 31<sup>st</sup>:** "The Thin Time" (Rev. Michael)

We find ourselves at a time in the year where people from different cultures celebrate the people that they have lost: from their parish, family or tribe. Some gather at gravesides to visit ancestors and celebrate with them; others seek the wisdom or presence of ancestors through mediums and special objects belonging to the one we loved. Others disparage such customs as unreasonable and superstitious. Where do you fall?

## KUUC Mission Statement

The people of KUUC are committed to actively creating compassionate community and working for a fair and peaceful world.

### THE SEVEN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES

Our Seven UU Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a covenant made between our Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. Many of our members use “The Principles” as a guide for how they choose to live their faith at home and in their communities.

**1st Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person

**2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

**3rd Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

**4th Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

**5th Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

**6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

**7th Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part

### THE SIX SOURCES OF OUR LIVING TRADITION

*As religious pluralists we draw upon multiple sources of inspiration in worship and daily life including:*

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;

Words and deeds of prophetic people, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



## SHARING MINISTRY OCTOBER 2021

“Many people suffer from the fear of finding oneself alone, and so they don't find themselves at all.”

— Rollo May, Man's Search for Himself.”

Over the many months that we have been at least in semi-seclusion, I have been worried about how you all were dealing with all that alone time. Time alone can indeed be a blessing or it can be quite a challenge. It is blessing when we embrace it as an opportunity to get reacquainted with who we are, as we are, right now. If we take that time and invest a generous portion of it into spiritual practices---which run the gamut from silence, to chanting, holistic exercise such as yoga or immersing ourselves in Nature---we should do just fine. When we set time aside to simply be, and dedicate ourselves to cultivating the great spaciousness within, we come closer to realizing the presence of whatever we think the *holy* to be. Through spiritual practice, we come to see how often we ignore our greatest need---to be fully present to our own unfolding and alive in the wonder of being human. Yet, if we continue on, the change will be remarkable; because we will be comfortable in our own being, we will always be in good company, when we are alone, or with strangers and dear friends alike.

It is also a great blessing to have time to be with loved ones, to finally do that very challenging 3-D jigsaw puzzle that you got for Christmas back in 2007, to tackle a house project or teach yourself how to speak Danish---but beware. The path of useful activity can easily become a detour to the wandering way of distraction; or perhaps it never was really useful activity at all. We tend to use busyness to willfully avoid the opportunity to deepen presented by time alone.

To enjoy solitude means to show up for ourselves, to listen to our breath, body and heartbeat. It means to embrace, understand, authorize and learn to love ourselves---even our deepest fears, doubts, sorrows or shame. Solitude is an opening to self, spirit and our full humanity. Unlike loneliness, which is a shutting off, a closing down, a feeling of separation, solitude is a way of opening: of building spiritual resilience, of feeling at peace with oneself and at home in the world.

Yours in Faith, Hope and Loving Service

*Rev. Michael*

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## Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for October:

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OFF DAY: Saturdays

REGULAR STUDY & PLANNING DAY: Tuesdays      WRITING DAY: Fridays

UUMA NE REGIONAL MINISTER'S RETREAT: Mon. October 11-Thurs., October 14th

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. Call (508) 821-6092 or (603) 352-1719 ext. 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am grateful to serve as a KUUC Trustee along with a hard-working group of people who bring diverse talents and perspectives to our work.

-We are part of a work ministry that is essential to the life of our KUUC community. Several opportunities for work ministry are upcoming.

We will be scheduling a Fall yard cleanup day, once the city announces the leaf pick up schedule. Details will follow.

Please note the gardens around the church need ongoing attention. If you are interested in helping out, contact Carol Hill for assignment of tasks.

For many years we had a Green Sale that included lunch and a book sale. Last year we only did wreaths. The event has been a financial and social benefit to KUUC.

We are grateful to those who have provided leadership for this event. For the event to go forward we need new leadership. Carol McIntyre-Peale can help anyone interested understand how the event is organized.

In this time when our treasure is limited, we need to share time and talent.

Thank you for all you do.

Go well

Carl Jacobs

## KUUC's UUA Annual Program Fund Drive

KUUC's annual campaign to raise money for KUUC's fair share of the UUA's Annual Program Fund Drive begins soon.

The Annual Program Fund is the UUA's primary source of funding. To keep things equitable, so that wealthier congregations pay more than poorer congregations, every congregation is assessed 7% of its church budget. We all desire a strong UUA, one that

can advocate for liberal, inclusive, non-dogmatic religious thought and one that can support its member congregations.

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It is easy to take for granted how much the UUA does for KUUC, but our minister and staff utilize UUA resources regularly, as the UUA provides worship materials, music resources, and religious exploration curricula. Since Covid-19, KUUC has used UUA recordings and livestreams on a regular basis for worship services. The UUA's UU World magazine and the UUA's website are spiritual resources available to all of us. Beyond KUUC's walls, the UUA strengthens our collective voice for justice and love, and it advocates for us on the national and international stage, including at the United Nations.

Stay tuned for more details during October worship services and in subsequent messages.

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

**Sunday, October 3, 4 – 5:30pm:** RE Committee Meeting, all are welcome. Please email Jill or Barbara Bryce ([bbryce17@gmail.com](mailto:bbryce17@gmail.com)) for Zoom link.

**Saturday, October 16, 10am:** RE Outdoors! Meet at Alyson's Orchard for an outdoor apple picking adventure with your RE friends. The RE Supplies budget will buy apples for your family to take home and for us to donate. I'm still working on where they'll go – come pick and find out.

**Sunday, October 17 & 24, 2:30-4:30pm:** Our Whole Lives group meets, Alliance Room.

**Save the Date – November 6, late afternoon:** exact time and location TBD. Make a lantern on your own at home (I'll send out some suggestions for how-to) and join your RE friends for a late afternoon lantern walk to welcome the dark. Very early on Sunday November 7 daylight savings time comes to an end (Fall Back the clocks!). We'll walk together on Saturday night and honor the increasing dark, the time of year for looking inward and contemplation, for rest from the heavy work of (maybe metaphorical) harvest, and preparation for the coming solstice celebrations.

**Adult RE -- [Faith Like a River: A Program on Unitarian Universalist History for Adults](#)**

Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:30pm, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10, (11/17 if needed). Alliance Room or Parish Hall.

Check out the link, but don't panic – the full curriculum may be 16 sessions but I have composed 4 “theme arcs” for the class to choose from. We'll meet four or five times depending on the theme the group chooses, and if we want to keep going, we can choose another arc and another set of days to meet. Space is limited based on social distance guidelines. *\*\*Please note all participants will be required to wear masks and show proof of vaccination per the KUUC Board of Trustees. Email your proof to Rev. Michael and you'll be set for both Sunday services and our group!*

Possibly coming soon – [Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators](#)

“In a small group setting, adults explore their roles as the most important sexuality educators their children will have.

Ten sessions invite parents and caregivers to explore their role as the primary sexuality educators of their elementary through teen age children. The 90-minute sessions use a small group ministry format to engage adults in topics including Gender Identity, Relationships, Social Media, and Consent.” – *UUA website, linked above.*

If you're interested in participating, please contact Jill via voicemail or text at 508-821-8935 or email at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com).

*\*\*This program has been adapted by the author for use via Zoom. If there is enough interest the group can decide if we will meet in person or via Zoom. If in person masks and proof of vaccination will be required, and numbers limited to ensure proper distancing.*

I'm looking forward to seeing you! Remember, even when the sanctuary is open, the service will still be live-streamed on our YouTube channel, the link for which can be found on our website, [kuuc.org](http://kuuc.org)

Jill

## MUSIC MESSAGE OCTOBER 2021

Happy Fall KUUC!

I want to again thank the musicians who have shared their musical talents with over the past year and a half. Many thanks to my right-hand man, Carl Jacobs, for joining me in the music ministry almost every week. Thanks also to soloists David Teubner, Susie Ericson-West, Lindsay Bartlett and Jim Peale.

I am anxious to be live again on 10/10 and hope to see many of you in the sanctuary. I can't wait for the news that the choir can sing again- I'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, please be in touch if you would like to be a part of the music by singing or playing.

Peace,  
Donna

## HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS OF KUUC: OCTOBER

Have you had the adventure of venturing to KUUC's version of "New Jersey"? It's technically the basement underneath the sanctuary of the church, but New Jersey is a much more colorful name. Does anyone know the history of its naming?

The basement is a marvel of engineering. It reflects the architect Edwin James Lewis thorough approach to the building craft. The plans for the sanctuary called for it to support 600 people. To achieve this goal, pillars of bricks measuring 16" by 16" were built up from the floor, some fifteen feet in from the exterior walls. Upon these, iron I-beams were bolted together. These repurposed railroad tracks stretch the 97-foot length of the building.

Floor joists were placed at 12" intervals from the exterior walls to the I-beams. In today's building projects, joists are placed at 16" intervals. Furthermore, each joist has additional bracing. The joists were covered by one-inch fir subflooring, upon which the finished flooring was laid. After 55 years of wear and tear, the flooring was showing signs of its hard use. In 1949, the gray linoleum tiles one sees today were installed. It happened over a three-week period that summer.

Should you have a chance to travel to KUUC's New Jersey, look up and study the sturdy construction that's overhead. Take a moment to admire this floor that has reliably supported the soles of the many souls who have come through our doors over 127 years.

Thanks to Jim Smart's book The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people, published in 1996 from which this information was gleaned. ---Eloise Clark



## P.8 OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

### IN-PERSON WORSHIP RETURNS ON 10-10-21: WILL YOU BE THERE TOO?

On Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, we will return to full “Dual-Platform Worship” delivery which means that for the first time since the August 15<sup>th</sup> the live worship will include KUUC members and friends in the pews and that happy occasion will also be streamed out those members, friends and worship prospectors wherever they may be watching on YouTube.

Do you hope to join us in the Sanctuary on an upcoming Sunday? All you have to do to be put on our attendance list is send a photo of your vaccination card to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com). The photo must clearly show your name and the dates on which you received your shots. There are some other limitations that need to be observed:

- Masks must be worn by attendees at all times during the service except for the Worship Team when they are speaking, singing or playing music.
- There will 6' spacing between individuals unless they are part of a family or pod.
- Some rows will be taped off to insure that appropriate spacing exist forward to back as well as side-by-side.
- For the foreseeable future there will be no congregational singing, though hymns will be played and sung by soloists.
- We cannot allow people to remain in the Sanctuary after the service to gather together and talk.

Hopefully reason and the common good will prevail in our country once again and public safety will be a priority for all. When that day comes, and the rates of infection drop, we will be able to worship just as we did prior to when the COVID pandemic began.



MIDDLE EAST STUDY GROUP TO HOST SPEAKER ON OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>



Margaret Anne ("Maggie") Phillips will talk on "Working for the Palestinians at KSC" after coffee time on October 3 at 11:30 a.m. Maggie is a member of the Concord UU Church and began her freshman year at KSC in 2018. Church members are invited to hear Maggie's comments and experience on this issue at KSC. All church members are invited. The event is sponsored by the church's Middle East Study Group.

UU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES FELLOWSHIP GROUP

"A NEW REFORMATION" October 5<sup>TH</sup> 5:00

Our fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30. We are now meeting in-person in the Alliance Room with the option to participate via ZOOM. We focus on a theme each month. For October we will focus on "A New Reformation." This topic was chosen as a result of members of our group expressing a need for religion to better address issues of justice and the environment. This group is for anyone inspired by the teachings of Jesus or who identifies with aspects of Christianity and would like to share their experiences, feelings and insights in a supportive environment, and support one another's spiritual growth and understanding. This group is guided by our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle (a free and responsible search for truth and meaning") and free of the doctrine or dogma that has often characterized traditional institutional Christianity.

For information and Zoom meeting details,  
contact Carol at 603-863-4920/ 603-398-5389 or [cstamatakis@outlook.com](mailto:cstamatakis@outlook.com).

BOOK CLUB TO MEET: OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>

The Book Club will be meeting to discuss Barbara Kingsolver's *ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MIRACLE* on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. The group hopes to meet in the KUUC Memorial Garden if the weather is pleasant or in the Parish Hall if there is rain.

For more information, please contact Carol Hill at [hcbhill@ne.rr.com](mailto:hcbhill@ne.rr.com)

## **“THE WEEKLY CHAT WITH REV. MICHAEL” RETURNS ON OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

“The Weekly Chat with Rev. Michael,” a weekly discussion program with our minister, returns on October 20<sup>th</sup> 9-10 AM. The program is in an open discussion form although it usually has a theme that serves as a conversation starter. We will start the year on Zoom and plan to eventually move to an in person or dual-platform (live and Zoom) before too long. Hope that you can join us!

## **COVENANT DUOS COMING AGAIN SOON!**

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### **THE HIT PROGRAM FROM THE SPRING RETURNS AGAIN**

#### **EXPLORE SPIRITUAL TOPICS WHILE GETTING TO KNOW SOMEONE FROM KUUC!!**

Have you experienced a Covenant Group at KUUC? If you have, you can appreciate the deeper connections you have made with your small group members. If you have not, we hope to give you a sense of what goes on in a small group by matching pairs of KUUC members/friends for a monthly phone call with a topic for discussion. Topics will come from the UUA Soul Matters curriculum or may be suggested by Rev. Michael or KUUC members. The majority of those who participated in Duos from March through June this year gave very positive feedback. The four topics were IDENTITY, INTERCONNECTEDNESS, WAKING UP WHITE, and THIS I BELIEVE. Past participants will be matched with a different participant this time around. Interested? Read on!

Duos will last for 3 months initially, one phone call per month. (We are still hoping to be able to return to in person worship, at which time you may continue on with your Duo calls or opt out.) Participants will receive an email with the monthly discussion topic and some quotes and/ or readings. (Those without internet will be snail mailed).

#### **GROUND RULES FOR COVENANT DUOS:**

Active Listening is key. No cross talk during check-in or initial response to the topic. After both have had a chance to speak on the topic, cross talk/discussion may occur. Always speak from your own experience. Respond respectfully. Please do not attempt to 'fix' or offer advice (unless specifically requested to do so). Confidentiality is expected.

There will be a 45 minute time limit. Please feel free to write up/ agree with your 'match' on elements of your own covenant and how you want to experience this time. i.e. You may want to set a time limit for initial topic discussion, etc.

**Here is all that you need to do: Answer the questions below. You may copy and paste your answers to the questions and email your responses to Deb McLay;**

[debmclay529@gmail.com](mailto:debmclay529@gmail.com)

1. Your Name
2. Gender Preference of your match?
3. Morning, Afternoon or Evening phone call? You may choose one or two
4. Day(s) of the week (more than one day will be easier to match, if possible)
5. Phone number you would like to use for this monthly call?

That's all there is to it! PLEASE NOTE! You will have ONE WEEK to respond to these questions. As soon as we (The Membership Committee) gather responses and do the matching, you will get an e-mail with your match's name and phone number, and the first topic. You may decide with your match what day to set for your call; i.e. 1st Saturday of the month, etc.

Get ready to deepen your relationship with a member/friend (and possibly yourself)!

It's a great way for newcomers to get know folks too!

## KUUC FEATURED IN ENERGY WEEK SOLAR TOUR

KUUC will be featured in a self-directed walking Solar Tour during Energy Week, October 18-24 and, beginning that week, in an ongoing virtual tour of CleanEnergyKeene.com. By participating in the tour, we and other building owners will share experiences with others who may be considering solar. The Solar Tour and other Energy Week activities will promote Keene's transition to 100% clean energy ([keeneenergyplan.com](http://keeneenergyplan.com)). During Energy Week, look for Solar Tour yard signs at KUUC and other buildings around town, and visit CleanEnergyKeene.com for a map and suggested walking route.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE NOTICE:

The deadline for the November *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The due date for *Messenger* submissions will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month prior to their issue (the only exceptions will be for the January issue---deadline December 15<sup>th</sup>---and the fact that there is no July *Messenger*). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com) and Danielle at [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org).

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
Covenant Duos:	Deb McLay
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Middle East Study Group:	Jim Smart
Membership:	Deb McLay
Music:	Open
Personnel:	Open
Religious Exploration:	Barbara Bryce
Senior Lunch Bunch:	Betty Forrest
Shawls of Love:	Darcy Doyle
Slice of Fellowship:	Betty Forrest
Social Action/Green Sanctuary:	Open
Stewardship:	John Walter
Ushers:	Tom Haynes
Wayside Pulpit:	Lindsay Bartlett
Worship:	Gwyn Powers
Property:	Carl Jacobs
Fundraising:	Open
Greens Sale:	Open
Welcoming Congregation:	Open

# KUUC CONTACT LIST 2021-22

## WORSHIP SERVICES

## STAFF

**Sunday Services:** 10:00 A.M. **Minister:** Rev. Michael Hall  
**Religious Exploration:** 10:00 A.M. [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com)  
September-June (508) 821-6092  
**Summer Services** 10:00 A.M. **Director, Religious Exploration:** Jill M. Hall  
**Address:** 69 Washington Street [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)  
Keene, NH 03431  
**Phone:** (603) 352-1719 **Music Director:** Donna Dearth  
**E-mail:** [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) [rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.kuuc.org](http://www.kuuc.org) **Office Manager:** Danielle Racine  
**Facebook:** [Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU](https://www.facebook.com/KeeneUnitarianUniversalistChurch@KeeneUU) [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) 352-1719

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